

On January 10, 1941, these men leave with their tutor, Mr. Tose, for a two months' tour of all the principal museums in the United States, where they will have further opportunity of observing in practice the principles that they have learned. They will then return to the Academy for two months more of intensive work before returning to their own institutions.



#### ARAUCANIAN INDIANS EXHIBIT

A SERIES OF handsome charts depicting the pottery and weaving of the Araucanian Indians of Chile, made under the direction of Dr. A. Oyarzun and R. E. Latham, are now on display in the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park.

This exhibit gives an excellent idea of the historical and cultural background of indigenous Chilean art. The set of illustrations, printed in Chile in beautifully accurate colors, have been loaned to the Academy by Mr. Oscar Galeno, Instructor in Spanish at Mission High School.

The English text, maps and free-hand drawings added to this set are the work of the Spanish students of Mission High School. This work was prepared for the School Essay Contest of the "Pacific Area" at the Golden Gate International Exposition, under the direction of Miss Anita Truman and Mr. Oscar Galeno.



#### ERNEST THOMPSON SETON A VISITOR

ERNEST THOMPSON SETON, noted animal painter, writer and lecturer, beloved by generations of boys many of whom are now distinguished naturalists, was a recent visitor at the Academy. His many friends will be pleased to know that the author of such well known works as "Two Little Savages," "Wild Animals I Have Known," and more recently "Lives of American Game Animals" is robust and vigorous at the age of eighty.

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# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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THE MUSEUM CLASS AT WORK

(See page 3)

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# CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO



## *January Announcement*

THE REGULAR JANUARY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Assembly Room (third floor) of the San Francisco Public Library on Wednesday evening, January 8, 1941, at eight o'clock.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Eric Walther, Botanist in Charge, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, whose subject will be "The New Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park."

Mr. Walther has been associated with the growth and development of Golden Gate Park for over twenty-five years, where as an active participant in the care and planning of this great out-of-door recreation area he has played no inconsiderable part. The Park itself, arising from the barren sand dunes of western San Francisco, has achieved world-wide fame and is not to be exceeded in magnificence and beauty by any other comparable man-made garden anywhere else in the world.

Mr. Walther is at present undertaking one of his life-long ambitions in the creation of a new Arboretum and Botanical Garden, funds for which were recently left as a bequest to the City and County of San Francisco by the late Mrs. Christian Strybing, "for the laying out, arrangement, establishment and completion of an Arboretum and Botanical Gardens... in the vicinity of the buildings of the California Academy of Sciences."

This garden, now only two years old, is situated a short distance west of the Academy buildings. It contains over two thousand exotic species of plants from most of the major botanical realms of the world. These are grouped into geographical units, representing such regions as the Mediterranean, South Africa, South America, Central America, Australia and New Zealand, and the Oriental region including Japan, China and the Himalayas. In this way one is able, by means of a pleasant walk along quiet, sequestered paths, to traverse the globe botanically in the course of a few minutes. It must be admitted, however, that both the trained horticulturist and the average person with but a casual aesthetic interest in plants are inclined to devote much more than the above suggested time to browsing about this international garden.

Another attractive unit in the botanical garden, which ought to be of particular interest to members of this state, is a separate garden devoted exclusively to native California plants. A third feature which is also being developed now is a garden of medicinal herbs and shrubs.

Mr. Walther, in his lecture on the development of Golden Gate Park from the early days of San Francisco, when most of this region consisted of barren sand dunes, to the present, when over four thousand exotic species are under cultivation, will give us some ideas on the botanical possibilities and probable future trends in landscaping. The lecture will be illustrated with colored slides.

The public is cordially invited.



### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting December 13, 1940, approved the applications of Mr. Walter C. Borchers, Mrs. H. C. Cantelow, Dr. Leo G. Hertlein, Dr. Lot Duncan Howard, Jr., Dr. Cameron Knox, and Mrs. Edward G. Schmiedell for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after January 2, 1941, they will be considered elected.



### MUSEUM SCHOOL

IT IS probable that the position of a museum preparator could well be listed as one of the most restricted and at the same time highly specialized occupations to be found in the various quarters of our globe. To prepare a modern natural history habitat group requires a scientific approach by an artist whose craftsmanship is exceeded only by his knowledge and ingenuity. Persons gifted with the requisite ability are indeed rare. It has, however, been the good fortune of the Academy to have on its staff for some years a man gifted with these special talents, as attested in particular by the beauty and accuracy of the exhibits in the Simson African Hall.

This opinion apparently is shared by the Carnegie Corporation of New York which during the past year has sponsored a school in museum technique at the California Academy of Sciences for the training of preparators from various parts of the Antipodes under the guidance of Mr. Frank Tose, the Academy's Chief of Exhibits.

In July, 1940, Robert Boswell of the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston, Tasmania, Joseph Kingsley of the Australian Museum at Sydney, and Patrick O'Brien of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand, arrived in San Francisco to undertake a strenuous nine months' course in museum preparation under a Carnegie Corporation grant. During the past six months these men have been trained in the modern methods employed in mounting large mammals, as well as in the use of new media, such as latex, celluloid and wax in the reproduction of reptiles, amphibians and plants for backgrounds and for special exhibits. Particular stress has been laid on the advantages of using artistic principles of composition and color perspective in habitat groups.